

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, and 6 were incorporated into independent base claim 1 and canceled. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fiora (US patent 6014909) in view of Genter et al. (US patent 5870928). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fiora (US patent 6014909) in view of Genter et al. (US patent 5870928) as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of English et al. (USP 2607238). However, it is submitted that nothing in the cited prior art, either alone or in combination, discloses or renders obvious all the features recited in amended claim 1.

The limitations of claim 6, and intervening claims 2 and 4, are now incorporated into independent base claim 1. In connection with claim 6, the Office Action merely mentions a hole adjacent 65a in Figure 4 of Genter, and alleges that the limitations of claim 6 are disclosed in Genter. However, Genter does not disclose each of the accommodating grooves having a hole at a bottom thereof, with each of the spring receiving members being pressingly inserted into the corresponding hole of each of the accommodating grooves, as now recited in amended claim 1.

Furthermore, in connection with claim 2 from which claim 6 depends, the Office Action alleged that Genter discloses accommodating grooves (fig. 5, apertures 65 and recesses 75) and spring receiving members (fig. 5, edges 65a and tabs 74a). As shown in Fig. 3 of Genter, a hole 75a is formed in a bottom of each of the recesses 75. However, Genter merely discloses that

these holes 75a are lightening holes (col. 5 line 35), and it is apparent that neither edges 65a nor tabs 74a are *pressingly inserted* into the holes 75a. Even assuming *arguendo* that the apertures 65 are holes, the edges 65a are parts defining the apertures 65. As such, edges 65a cannot be reasonably interpreted as being *pressingly inserted* to the apertures 65. Moreover, Genter does not disclose that the tabs 74a are pressingly inserted to the holes 65. In fact, if the tabs 74a are pressingly inserted to the holes 65, it would obstruct the relative rotational movement of the gear wheels 60 and 70.

For at least these reasons, the present claimed invention patentably distinguishes over the prior art. In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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